

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 13 stand rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Caselli '710. Applicant respectfully submits by way of the amended claims, Caselli does not anticipate the claimed invention.

Similarly, claims 1-11, 13, 15, and 16 are rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Pressly '952.

Claim 1 stands further rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Caralt Batlle '410. Based upon the amendments and remarks set forth herein, Applicant respectfully submits that the claimed subject matter is not anticipated by the respective references.

Claim 1 has been amended to clarify the subject matter which is now claimed and now sets forth that the safety syringe provides for a moveable base which releasably constrains a needle hub in which the base and needle hub are slideable for movement within the barrel toward the first end of the barrel when the needle hub is in communication with a partially compress spring. It is respectfully submitted that this feature of a moveable base containing a needle hub and which is in communication with a partially compressed spring and which collectively mores with the base distinguishes over the Caselli '710 reference.

With respect to the Caselli '710 reference, when base 12 is moved in a dispensing direction, neither the needle hub nor a partially compressed spring is moved in the direction of movement of the base 12. As best seen in reference to Figure 7 of the Caselli '710 reference, the moveable base 12 forms no contact or association in a dispensing mode with spring 21 or support member 24. It is only the support member 24 and spring 21 providing the biasing means for the spring, support member 24 being different from the moveable base 12.

Applicant respectfully submits that amended claim 1 is not anticipated by the Pressly '952 reference. As set forth in claim 1, the compressed spring is now claimed as being positioned between a base of the needle hub and a threaded first end of the barrel. As seen in Pressly '952, Pressly does not provide a threaded barrel nor a

threaded needle. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the subject matter of claim 1 is not anticipated by the Pressly '952 reference.

Similarly, claim 9 has been amended to set forth a process in which the moveable base and a hub of a needle are collectively moved upon engagement by the plunger. Further, the claimed position of the spring between the hub base and the threaded portion of a needle is not found within the cited reference. Since the structure and relative movements of the claimed portions are not found within the cited references, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 9 is in condition for allowance.

With respect to the Caralt Battle '410 reference, Applicant points out that the present amended claim limitations are not met by this reference inasmuch as the spring member is not associated between a needle hub base and a threaded portion of a needle.

In the previously Office Action, the Examiner has pointed out that the term "interchangeable" as described in the specification has a different function and comprises additional elements such as a threaded needle head mated with a threaded portion of a needle hub but is not claimed. Applicant respectfully submits that claim 5 clearly sets forth the threaded portions of the needle head and needle hub for a screw-type interchangeable needle head. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the subject matter of claim 5 given the existing claim language in view of the Examiner's comments directed to the term "interchangeable".

Inasmuch as all outstanding issues raised by the Examiner have been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance, and action to such effect is earnestly solicited. The Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned upon receipt of this Amendment if additional explanation, clarification, or discussion would prove helpful.

Please charge any additional fees required by this Amendment to Deposit
Account No. 50-3172.

Respectfully submitted,

J. BENNETT MULLINAX, LLC

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. B. Mullinax", written in a cursive style.

J. Bennett Mullinax
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